

Address to the Board of Trustees
April 7, 2025
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I am Maudry-Beverley Lashley, Professor & PSC Chapter Chair, Medgar Evers College.
Good afternoon, members of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor Matos, PSC Executives and PSC leadership, and membership.

I am here to raise urgent Health and Safety concerns regarding the deteriorating infrastructure across several Brooklyn campuses and to offer a solution. The current conditions in many of our facilities are not only inadequate but pose ongoing risks to the health and safety of both staff and students.

Library staff, in particular, have been significantly impacted. This includes individuals with compromised immune systems, severe allergies, neurological conditions, and those who are pregnant. These environments are not conducive to safe or healthy working conditions.

Students, who rely on these campuses as study and research spaces, are also affected. Their well-being must be considered equally in any response to these issues.

Among the most pressing concerns:

- Bathrooms across multiple campuses require consistent, comprehensive maintenance rather than temporary or cosmetic fixes.
- Recurrent flooding during periods of rain has led to persistent mold issues in several buildings.
- Current mold remediation efforts appear insufficient to address the scale and recurrence of the damage.

These are not isolated incidents but systemic problems that require coordinated, long-term solutions.

We respectfully request:

1. A clear, transparent plan outlining how these infrastructure issues will be addressed.
2. A timeline for repairs and preventative measures, particularly regarding flooding and mold remediation.
3. Increased efforts to secure capital funding for necessary building improvements. Campus leadership should play an active role in pursuing these resources.

We believe that addressing these concerns will require collective action and a demonstrated commitment to the health and safety of all members of the CUNY community.

I also urge you to call upon the Presidents of the various CUNY colleges to take a more active role in securing funding to support critical infrastructure improvements. Significant capital investment is needed to address the ongoing deterioration of our facilities, and campus leadership should be directly engaged in advancing these efforts instead of posing for social media photos.

There is a growing concern that fundraising outcomes have been limited at some campuses over extended periods of time. In light of the urgent conditions we are facing, it is essential that Presidents prioritize and demonstrate measurable progress in securing external funding and partnerships that can support rebuilding and long-term maintenance.

Clear expectations, accountability, and transparency around these efforts would help ensure that all campuses are actively contributing to the solutions we urgently need.

